

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

7920221

Washington, D.C. 20520

Copies to:

November 7, 1979

TO
FROM
SUBJECT

2/C-3
TAM-D
M:njs

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Mr. Bleanfield's Memorandum of October 26
on a Human Rights Proposal

In a memorandum addressed to Assistant Secretary
Haynes and Pavilion, Mr. Bleanfield requested a
coordinated response to your suggestion that the
United States propose that every signatory of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights or some other
appropriate human rights declaration should agree to
publish the full text in its press on a mutually
agreed upon day and thereafter display the full text
in government offices.

The proposal relates to an issue which is already
the subject of a number of UN resolutions that are
currently before the General Assembly. The first resolution as a General
Assembly resolution adopted in 1948 by which all
states and interested persons were invited to
adopt the Declaration of Human Rights by
December 10, 1948. Pursuant to this resolution, the
Department of State each year issues a Presidential
proclamation that the United States observe December
10 as Human Rights Day, Day of the Bill of Rights
Day, with the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights
Week. All human rights declarations have
issued since 1948, and have been drafted for
this year and are presently making its way through the
interdepartmental clearance process.

There are also a number of resolutions on the
books which call for appropriate publicity to the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As its 1979

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

R. Valer DATE 12/26/84

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH.

REASON(S)

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

session held earlier this year, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution on public information activities in the field of human rights. In this resolution, all governments were urged to consider action to give publicity to United Nations activity in the field of human rights and the Secretary-General was requested, in addition to giving appropriate publicity to UN human rights activities, to disseminate the International Bill of Rights in as many languages as possible. Under this same resolution the Commission decided to consider at its 1980 session the question of ways and means of further developing public information activities in the field of human rights.

In UN parlance the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is but a part of the overall International Bill of Rights which comprises, in addition to the Declaration, the two International Covenants on Human Rights (the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) together with the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The International Bill of Rights is widely publicized by the United Nations Office of Public Information in a number of ways, principally through the issuance of a variety of pamphlets.

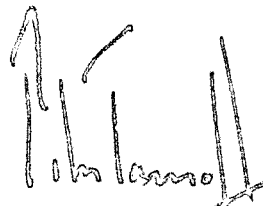
Since the Commission on Human Rights will again be considering the subject of public information activities in the field of human rights at its 1980 session, we will be preparing proposals for the U.S. representative to put forward at that time. A proposal such as you suggest would certainly be among those to be considered. As regards the publication of a United Nations human rights text in the press of member countries, we will have to be careful to adapt our phraseology to take account of the position of the press in the United States, which is not subject to governmental directives. The proposal should also probably focus upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights rather than a human rights convention for the following reasons:

(a) Since the United States is not yet a party to the Covenants, we would not be in a position to give to them the same kind of public treatment in the United States as we could to the Declaration.

(b) The three United Nations human rights conventions to which the United States is a party (slavery, refugees, political rights of women) have a limited focus and are not as suitable for a general human rights initiative.

(c) The Universal Declaration is a compact instrument covering all basic human rights and is most suitable for the kind of treatment suggested. The whole International Bill of Rights would be too lengthy for effective publication and display.

The chances of success of such a U.S. sponsored proposal will doubtless suffer from the handicap of our non-ratification of the Covenants and many other human rights conventions, which is regarded by very many United Nations members as running counter to our rhetoric in favor of human rights.



Peter Tarnoff
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Mr. Bloomfield's Memorandum.

Drafted: IO/HR:WEN:witt:bkm
11/6/79 #20572

Clearances: HA - Ms. Dorian (draft)
IO - Mr. Haynes

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 26, 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLES WILLIAM MAYNES
PAET DERIAN

FROM: LINCOLN P. BLOOMFIELD

SUBJECT: Human Rights

Zbig Brzezinski has raised the possibility of the US proposing that every signatory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or some other appropriate human rights convention should agree to publish the full text in its press on a mutually agreed-upon day and thereafter display the full text in all post offices, government offices, etc.

Could you give me a coordinated reaction to this suggestion by November 5 please?

Many thanks.

Received in ES and
processed through
S.A. 11/2/79

Action assigned: 14R

Date due: 11/5/79

Info copies to: CWM
GAD
GEM